



2021

ANNUAL REPORT

MATTHEWS POLICE DEPARTMENT

1201 CREWS RD.
MATTHEWS, NC 28105

MATTHEWSNC.GOV/POLICE
704-841-6701

Mission Statement

The employees of the Matthews Police Department strive to promote a safe community by preventing crimes and reducing the fear of crime, while treating all individuals fairly and with respect. Our members will demonstrate honesty, professionalism and integrity, while building the partnerships necessary to enhance the safety of our community.

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

01 A Message from the Chief

02 Demographics

04 Community Engagement

06 Beyond the Badge

07 CALEA Accreditation

08 Operations

10 Crime Reporting

14 Investigations

16 Internal Affairs

20 Citizen Volunteers

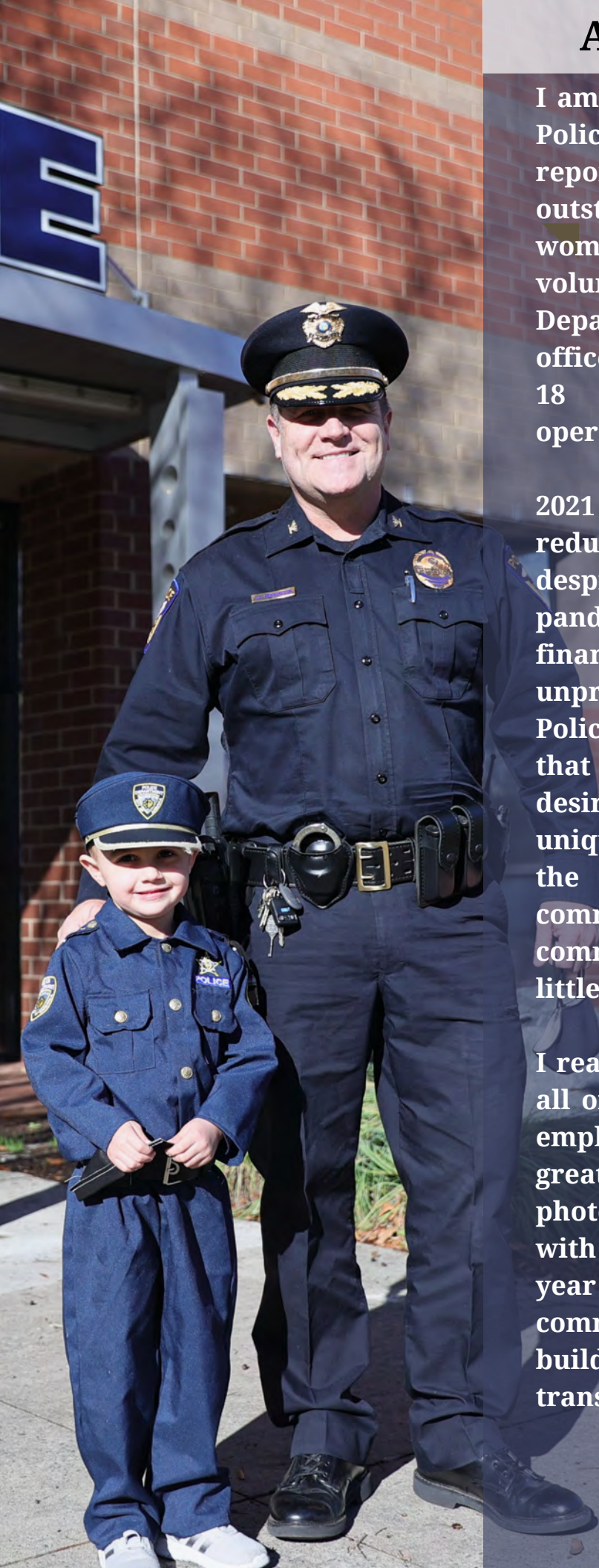
A Message From The Chief

I am pleased to present to you the Matthews Police Department 2021 Annual Report. The report is designed to highlight the outstanding work performed by the men and women of the agency, sworn, non-sworn, and volunteer alike. The Matthews Police Department is made up of 69 sworn police officers, 18 non-sworn professional staff and 18 Citizen Volunteers with an annual operating budget of \$8,271,252.

2021 saw great strides in our commitment to reduce crime and increase the quality of life despite the continued threat from the global pandemic. The emotional hardship and financial impact to our community was unprecedented and presented the Matthews Police Department with unique challenges that were met with empathy, respect, and a desire to serve our community. Despite the unique challenges, we continued to adapt to the times and stood strong on our commitment to community outreach and community policing, although it looked a little different than past years.

I realize it is impossible to fully demonstrate all of the programs and positive impacts the employees and volunteers of MPD had on our great community in just a few pages and photographs. My intention is to provide you with some of the highlights from this past year to memorialize your police department's commitment to excellence and continue to build trust and legitimacy through transparency.

Chief Clark A. Pennington



TOWN OF MATTHEWS

**Black or African American
9.9%**

**Hispanic
7.9%**

**Asian
4%**

**White
78.2%**

With a 2020 population of 34,641, it is the 28th largest city in North Carolina. Matthews is currently growing at a rate of 1.47% annually, and its population has increased by 27.37% since the most recent census, which recorded a population of 27,198 in 2010.

***Sources: US Census Bureau & 2018 PEPANNRES**

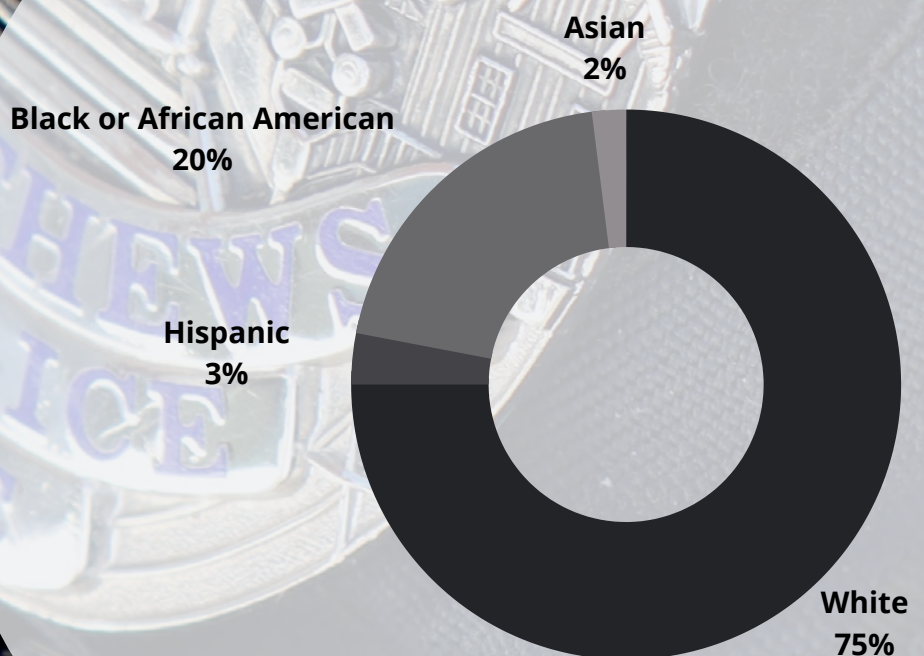
REPRESENTING OUR COMMUNITY

MPD places a strong value on the importance of diversity and understanding the need to recruit employees who are reflective of the community we serve. To that end, MPD continually strives to create a workforce that contains a broad range of qualified individuals by attending and recruiting at Basic Law Enforcement Trainings as well as creating, posting, and distributing brochures, posters, videos, and social media postings to assist in recruitment efforts.


RECRUITMENT EFFORTS 2021

- 178 Officer Applications Reviewed
- 34 Candidates Interviewed
- 13 Conditional Offers
- 9 Officers Hired

SWORN PERSONNEL DIVERSITY

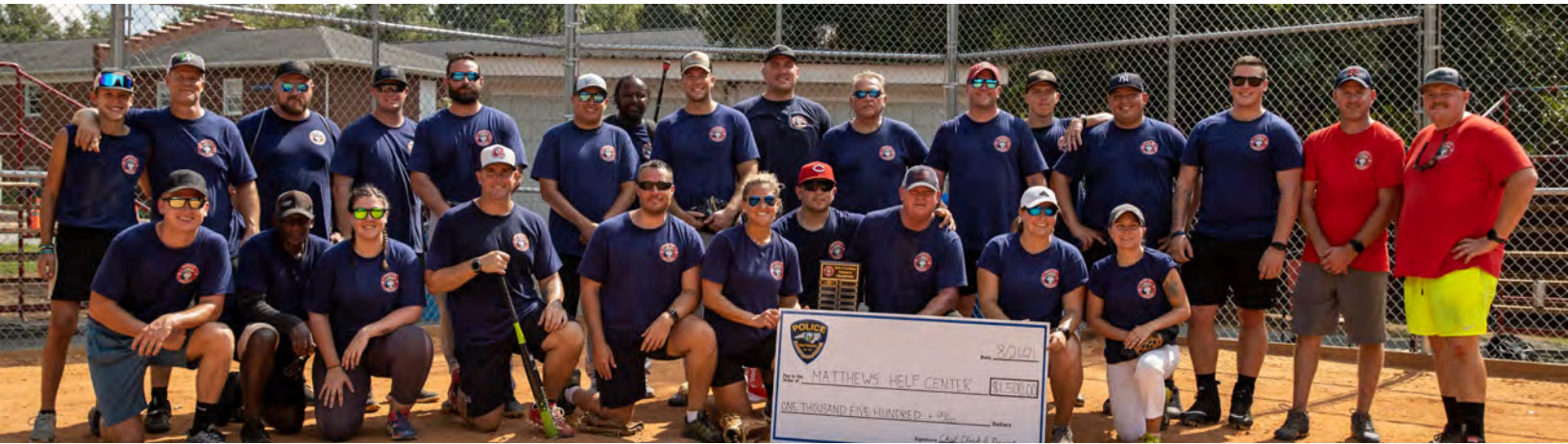


COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Throughout 2021, officers planned and participated in the following community events:

- Read with A Cop
- Coffee with A Cop
- Chill With A Cop
- Matthews Gives Back
- Matthews Gives Back For Christmas
- Barbershop Talks
- Coffee with the Chief
- National Night Out
- Trunk or Treat at United Methodist Church
- Neighborhood Trunk or Treat
- Safe Kids Car Seat Clinic
- Cops With Gun Locks
- Operation Pill Drop
- Bike Safe (Motorcycle Training)



7,190 Followers
+11%



2,827 Followers
+10%



30,400 Followers
892,000 Views
+885%



MPD wants our community to know that our officers are humans, whose lives can be just as complicated as those that they serve.

Meet Lt. Jamie Matthews. Lt. Matthews returned from an extended medical leave this year after recovering from a much-needed kidney transplant. He endured months of dialysis treatments, tests, and too many doctor's visits to count. But, what makes Lt. Matthews' strength and resilience even more impressive is the fact that this was his second time going through this process. In 2013, he received his first kidney transplant from his brother, who serves as a Captain with the CMPD. Unfortunately, in 2019, that kidney began to fail which eventually put him in need of another transplant.

This time, Lt. Matthews' other brother wanted to donate, but sadly, he was not a match; however, doctors informed Lt. Matthews that there was a very remarkable way that his brother could still help to save his life by donating a kidney. They both were given the option of participating in a "Paired Exchange" program through the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) which involves a minimum of two living donors and two recipients. This program is designed for situations just like theirs where someone wants to donate an organ to a loved one but is not a compatible match. In this program, since the donor is not a match to their chosen recipient, the donor will instead be compared to all the other transplant candidates on the waiting list in the attempt of finding a compatible match. The loved one (Transplant Candidate) will in turn be compared to all other available donors and, if they are both successfully matched individually to two others, a paired exchange will be performed to accommodate all involved. The other goal of the "Paired Exchange" program is to utilize the Never Ending Altruistic Donor (NEAD) chain where each living donor in this system gives to a stranger, and the chain of donors is kept going as long as possible. In Lt. Matthews' case, representatives from UNOS were able to extend the chain one more time in his process which ended up involving a total of six people in three states across the country (North Carolina, Michigan & Oregon)

Matthews Police Chief Clark Pennington said, "It's hard to express how incredible it is to see someone go through what he has, twice now, with such a determination to not only fight for his health but to also be laser-focused on getting right back here to work as soon as possible. To see him here and healthy, wearing that uniform, doing what he loves to do, should inspire us all. The Matthews community is very fortunate to have him here serving, and most of all, his MPD family is very thankful that he's back where he belongs, with us".





STRIVING TO BE BETTER

Over this past year, the department has been working with CALEA to bring the department's general orders and standard operating procedures in line with best practices identified by CALEA. CALEA is an organization made up of representatives from the Law Enforcement Community, Private, Public, and Academic spectrums. The CALEA Accreditation programs provide Law Enforcement Agencies with an opportunity to voluntarily meet and establish a set of professional standards, which require:

- Comprehensive and uniform written directives that clearly define authority, performance, and responsibilities.
- Reports and analyses to make fact-based and informed management decisions.
- Preparedness to address natural or man-made critical incidents.
- Community relationship-building and maintenance.
- Independent review by subject matter experts.
- Continuous pursuit of excellence through annual reviews and other assessment measures.

Once accredited, the Matthews Police Department will join the eighty-six accredited agencies in North Carolina that are continually striving for success. These agencies range from Police Departments, Sheriff's Offices, College Campus Police Departments, State Highway Patrol, and County Police Departments.



OPERATIONS

The Operations Bureau is the front line of officers who regularly respond to calls for service, protect our schools, work closely with the community to conduct events, conduct traffic enforcement to reduce collisions, provide K9 services for drug detection and tracking people and provides animal control services. Officers of the Operations Bureau responded to and/or generated a combined total of approximately 71,516 Calls for Service in the Town of Matthews.

Highlights

K9 Unit:

- Completed more than 300 hours of training
- Operations K9s' had 33 deployments
- Seized over 146 Grams (5.15 Ounces) of illegal Narcotics
- Seized over \$19,169.00 in cash.
- Recovered Stolen Firearms & other property
- Conducted over 20 Public Demonstrations (Town Events / Schools / Out of Town Events)
- Participated in a joint investigation with Federal Agencies to recover approximately an additional \$17,000 in U.S. Currency in Matthews.
- Provided Mutual Aid assistance to surrounding agencies, including the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, Union County Sheriff's Office, Monroe Police Department, Stallings Police Department, and Pineville Police Department.
- Hosted the National Police Bloodhound Association annual training, bringing in K9 Teams from around the country.

Traffic Enforcement:

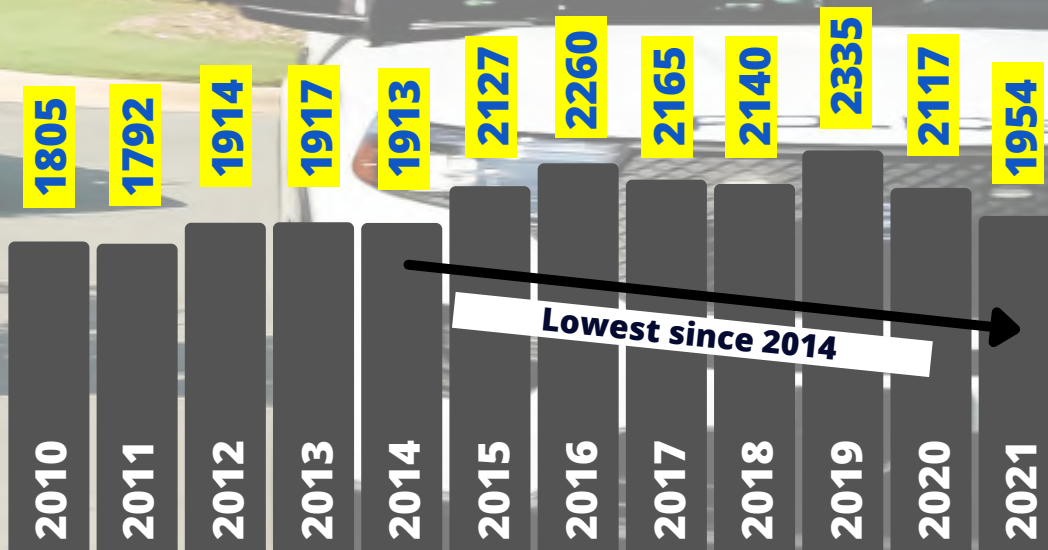
- 2 Governor's Highway Safety Program Officers
- Total Citations for the year = 4,900
- Total Campaigns Completed = 14
- Total Traffic Initiatives Completed = 431
- Total Educational Events Completed = 22
- Total Misdemeanor Arrests = 180
- Total Felony Arrests = 13
- Notable Event: Multi-Agency Saturation Patrol responsible for over 100 traffic and criminal charges by citations and two arrests after four hours of work in Matthews.



2021 CRIME REPORT

As stated in the department's mission statement, "the members of the Matthews Police Department strive to promote a safe community by preventing crimes and reducing the fear of crime by our citizens while treating all individuals fairly and with respect." In order to better understand crime and quality of life issues within the Town of Matthews, the Matthews Police Department routinely reviews a variety of statistics to better assess the department's efforts. The following statistics are subject to change as reports may be audited by the Records Office and incidents may be investigated further. These statistics are based on the date on which an incident was reported and do not include unfounded offenses, which are defined, according to the FBI, as "complaints of crimes that have been determined to be unfounded or false through investigation."

GROUP A OFFENSES



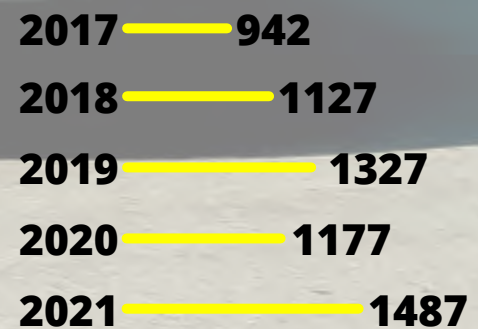
**GROUP A
OFFENSES
DOWN 8%**

**GROUP B
OFFENSES
UP 26%**

NIBRS OVERVIEW

"NIBRS is an incident-based reporting system in which law enforcement collects data on each crime occurrence. Designed to be generated as a byproduct of local, state, federal, and tribal automated records systems, in 2012, the NIBRS [began collecting] data on each incident and arrest within 22 crime categories made up of 46 specific crimes called Group A offenses. For each of the offenses coming to the attention of law enforcement, various facts about the crime are collected. In addition to the Group A offenses, there are 10 Group B offense categories for which only arrest data are reported."

GROUP B OFFENSES



*90Z All Other Offenses includes non-criminal reports that are written for documentation purposes.

INDEX OFFENSES

Part 1, or Index, offenses include murder and non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. These eight offenses can further be grouped into violent and property offenses.

Violent Crime Rate

NORTH CAROLINA

4.516

*SBI, 2020

MECK. COUNTY

7.596

*SBI, 2020

TOWN OF MATTHEWS

1.552

*MPD, 2021

INDEX OFFENSES DOWN 16%

Violent OFFENSES DOWN 10%

PROPERTY OFFENSES DOWN 17%

Violent OFFENSES

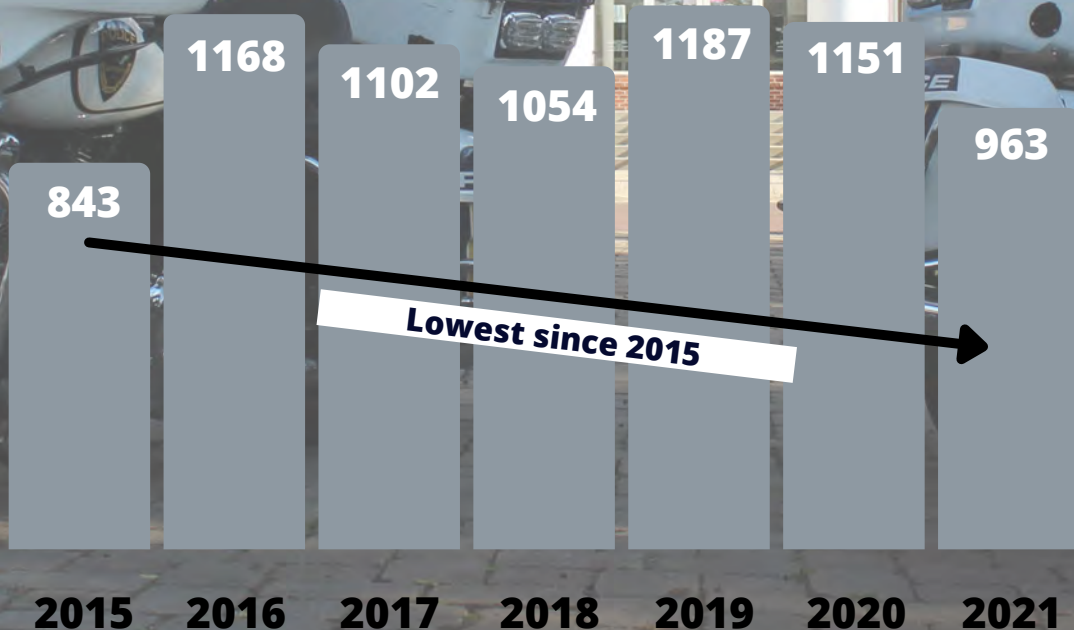
Homicide

5 to 0
100%

Rape

7 to 2
71%

Part 1 OFFENSES



PROPERTY OFFENSES

Robbery

20 to 18
10%

12

22%
27 to 33

Agg Assault

Burglary

-28%

Larceny

-14%

Motor Vehicle Theft

-32%

Arson

-60%

ARRESTS
UP 8%

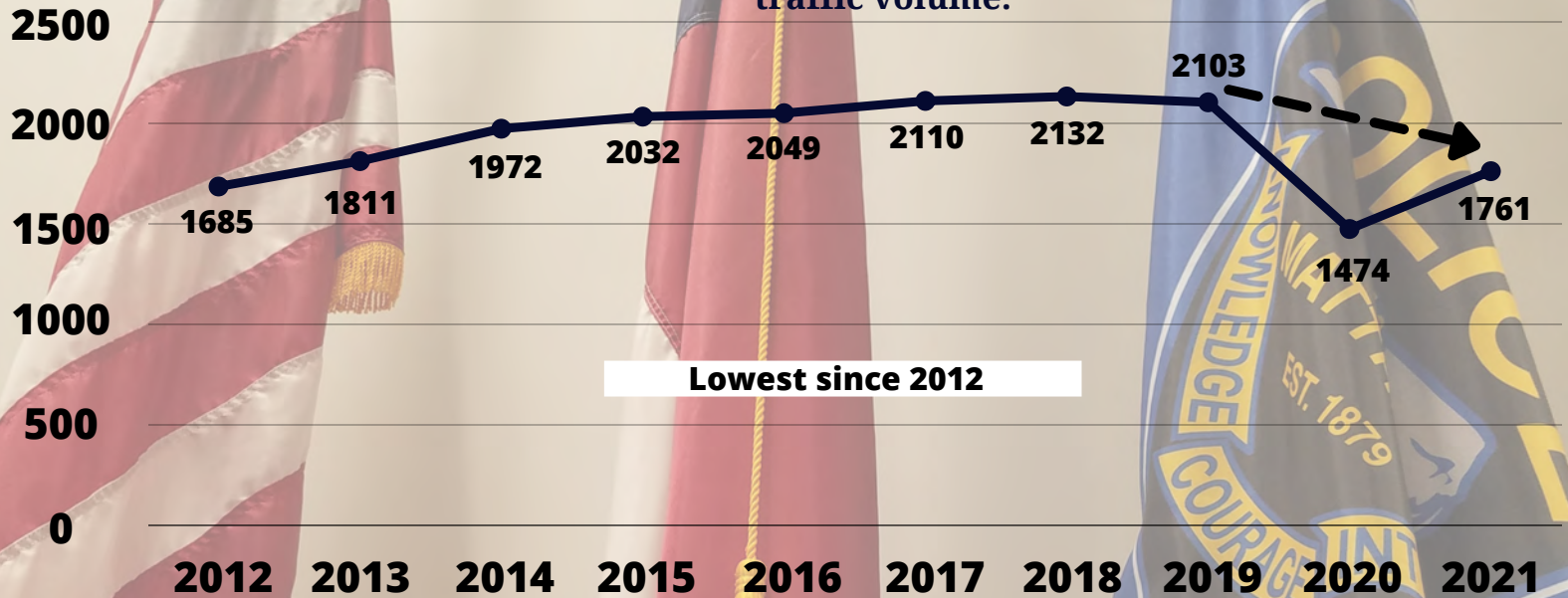
CITATIONS
UP 36%

TRAFFIC CRASHES
DOWN 16%

*In comparison to 2019

TRAFFIC CRASHES

Traffic crash counts from 2020 are considered outliers due to the impact of COVID-19 on traffic volume.



TOTAL CFS
DOWN 7%

**CITIZEN
GENERATED CFS**
UP 2%

**OFFICER
INITIATED CFS**
DOWN 10%

CALLS FOR SERVICE

During 2021, the Matthews Police Department initiated or responded to 71516 calls for service. This total includes 15460 calls for service requested by the public, as well as 56056 officer-initiated. These call counts do not include duplicate calls for service and have been updated from past annual reports following additional scrutiny of the data.



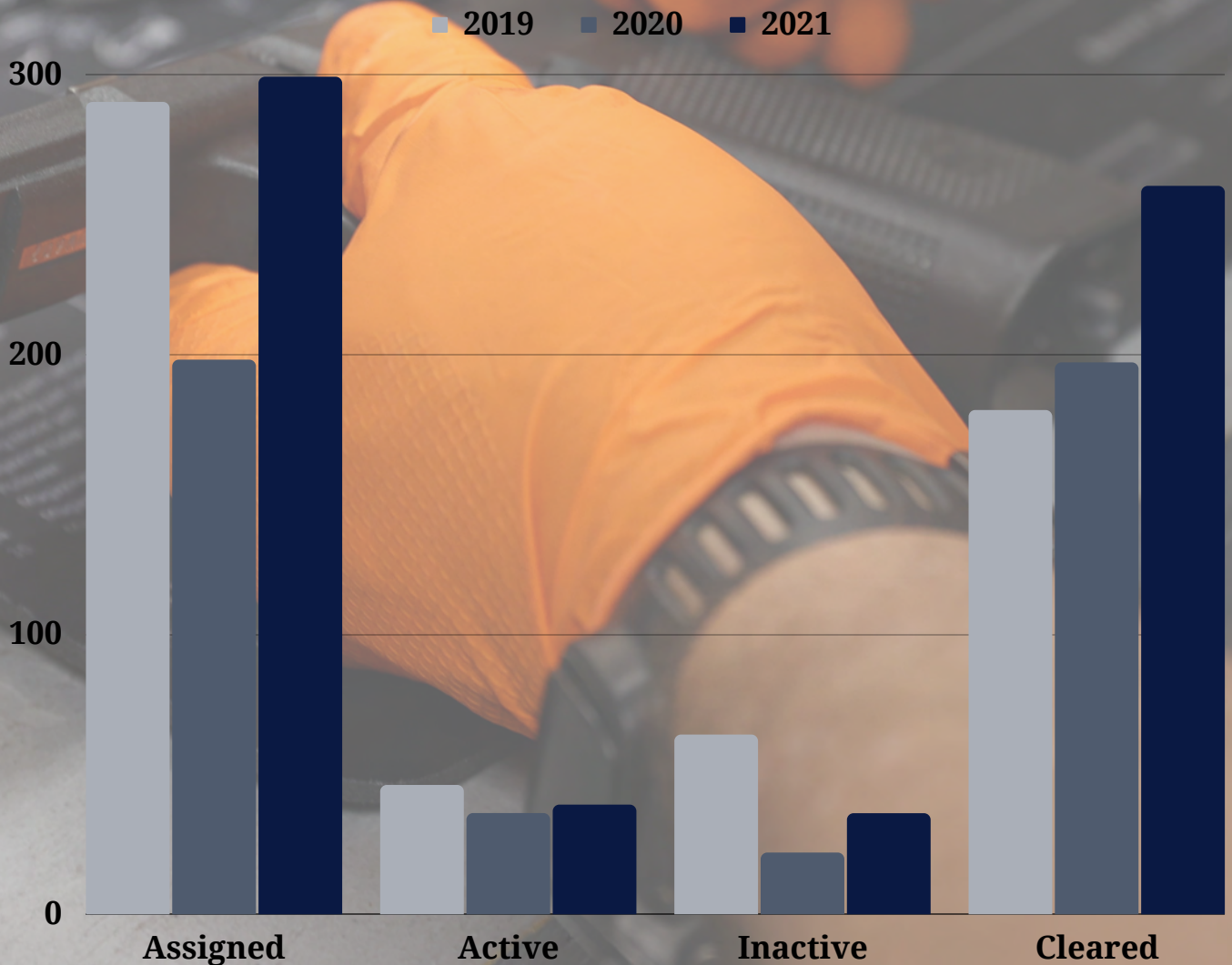


INVESTIGATIONS HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2021, MPD obtained two new investigative tools, which have been put to use in assisting the department.
 - Eight fixed license plate readers were strategically placed around the town in an effort to assist with identifying suspect vehicles.
 - Investigators now have the ability to utilize a program which allows them to analyze cell phone data related to cases.
- The task force K-9 unit assigned to Homeland Security seized \$791,707.
- The MPD Detective who works with the DEA task force participated in the seizure of \$786,803, as well as significant amounts of illegal and dangerous drugs.
- The "Operation Santa Knows" project (retail theft during the Holiday Season) resulted in over \$10,000 in merchandise recovered and 26 arrests.
- The Crime Analysis Unit automated crime and call for service statistics to expedite the identification of emerging trends.



Total Cases Handled 427
Total New Assigned 386
Total Cleared 334





INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Understanding The Report

MPD is currently transitioning to the Benchmark Analytics Program which is an all-in-one management system, allowing for record-keeping and accountability of investigated internal and external issues, as well as use of force reporting and early intervention software. This will improve the department's ability to become more transparent and provide statistics to the community as we continue to place an emphasis on the individual accountability of our officers.

Use of Force:

Any level of force applied to an arrestee other than guiding or directing the person to the ground or fixed object requires additional documentation. A high level of accountability and scrutiny is applied to every incident where force is necessary. In 2021, officers were confronted with 22 separate criminal investigations where a level of force was imperative.

MPD tracks and categorizes use of force investigations in three separate categories, Justified, Inappropriate, and Not Justified. Justified indicates that the use of force was both justified under the given situation and appropriate. Inappropriate indicates that the use of force was justified, but the method/tool utilized was inappropriate for the situation or level of aggression by the suspect. Not Justified indicates that the use of force may or may not have been justified, but the method of force was grossly disproportionate to the resistance presented. In the case of Inappropriate or Not Justified force being used, those findings trigger the disciplinary process to take place.

Internal Investigations:

Each investigation will be closed as either "Sustained, Non-Sustained, Unfounded, or Exonerated. Sustained indicates that a violation of departmental rule of conduct is supported by the weight of the evidence. Non-Sustained indicates that the reported conduct occurred, but the facts do not support a violation of policy or procedures. Unfounded indicates the allegation is false, or there was no evidence to substantiate the allegation. Exonerated indicates that the allegation occurred but was legal, proper, and necessary.

Use of Force

After reveiw, the findings of the investigations into the use of force by the officers were as follows:

- Justified = 39
- Inappropriate = 0
- Not Justified = 1

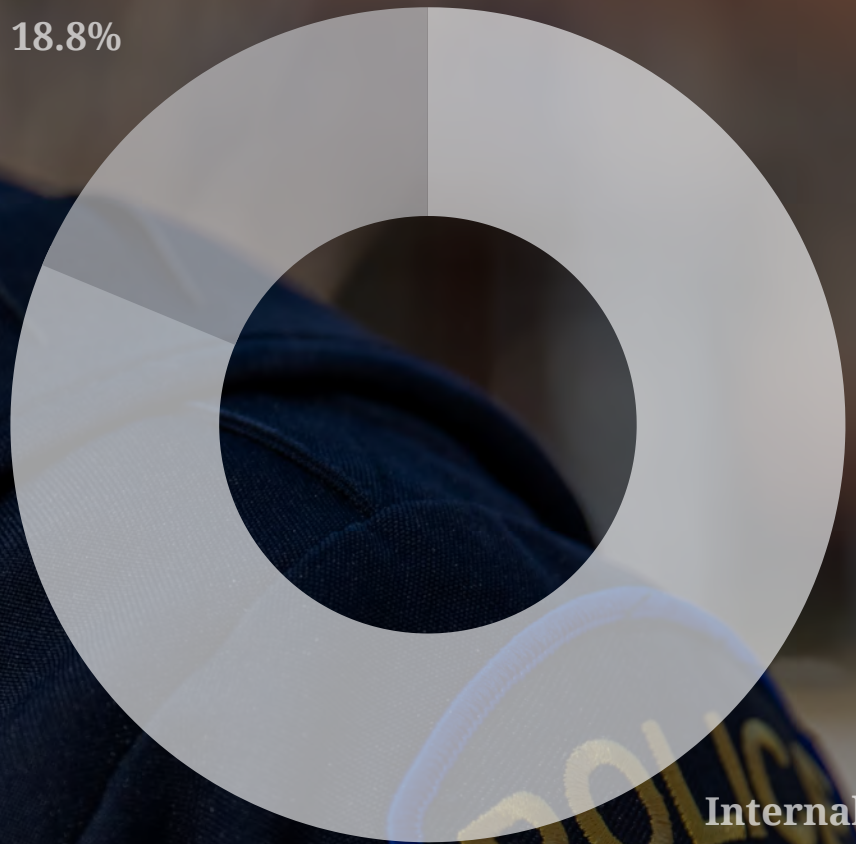


- MPD officers were involved in 2 incidents where a taser was displayed, but not deployed.
- MPD officers were involved in 2 incidents where a firearm was displayed, but not discharged.
- MPD officers were not involved in any "impact" use of force situations, nor was OC spray utilized on any suspects.
 - Impact refers to the use of an ASP Baton, flashlight, or other instrument used as an impact/blunt force weapon against a suspect.
 - In 2021, the entire MPD received in-service credit and training for ASP baton and OC Spray Certification.
- MPD officers reported use of "hands/feet" use of force for 36 officers.
 - This category indicates an officer laid hands-on or struck the suspect utilizing hands or feet.
- Overall, officers were confronted with 22 separate criminal investigations where a level of force was deemed necessary.
 - The number of officers applying force is not directly proportional to case numbers. Each officer is accountable for the force he/she applies in any given situation. There are many cases where multiple officers were involved in applying some level of force to an offender.

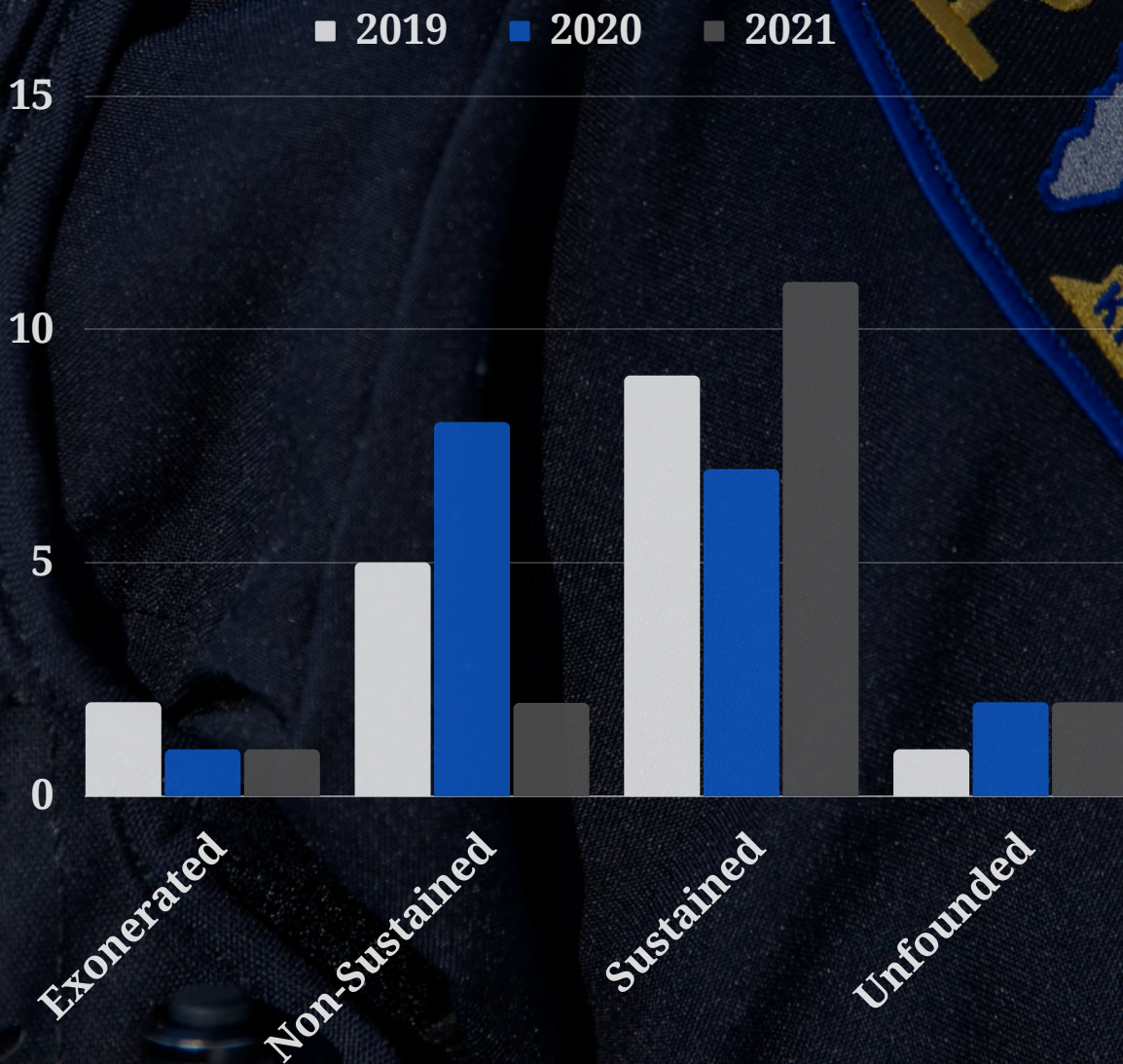
Internal/External Complaints

In 2021, there were a total of 13 internal complaints and 3 external complaints.

External
18.8%



Internal
81.3%

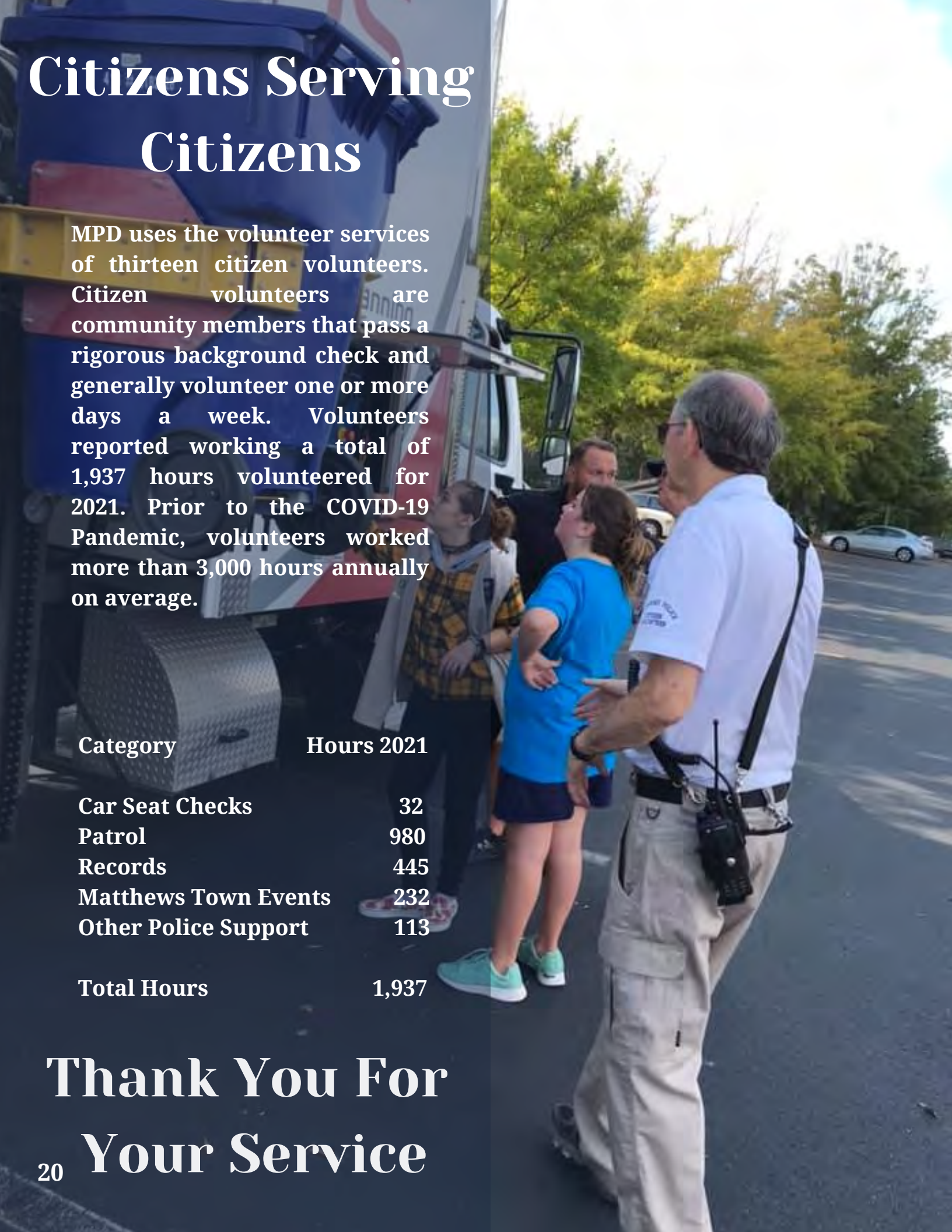


Citizens Serving Citizens

MPD uses the volunteer services of thirteen citizen volunteers. Citizen volunteers are community members that pass a rigorous background check and generally volunteer one or more days a week. Volunteers reported working a total of 1,937 hours volunteered for 2021. Prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic, volunteers worked more than 3,000 hours annually on average.

Category	Hours 2021
Car Seat Checks	32
Patrol	980
Records	445
Matthews Town Events	232
Other Police Support	113
Total Hours	1,937

Thank You For
Your Service



Looking Forward

MPD made great strides in 2021 and has already begun planning for the future. In 2022, the department is excited to dive into multiple new endeavors that will all have a positive impact on our officers and community.

- MPD has been approved to add an additional K9 unit to assist the Operations Bureau.
- The department is working on installing a cutting edge simulator designed to be utilized in more realistic training scenarios for our officers.
- The department is currently in the planning stages of developing a state of the art Emergency Operations Center.

